THE NINTH DAY.

1st March 1916.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Wednesday, the 1st March 1916.

153. Some suggestions regarding the appointment of licensed stamp-vendors.

Mr. S. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Vaikam) said that the present system of licensed stamp-vendors was causing unnecessary hardships to the public. From the year 1086, the Government were paying, on an average, about Rs. 50,000 per annum as discount on stamps. That expenditure was incurred to afford increased facilities to the people in the purchase of stamps. The result was just the opposite. Each taluk had ten or fifteen stamp-vendors. Each of them purchased at the beginning of a week stamps to the value of about Rs. 150 and entrusted the whole to some vakil on credit. Until the vakil disposed of the same in the course of his business, the vendor was without money for purchasing stamps and the people found it extremely difficult to purchase stamps for their transactions. The vendor was satisfied with the discount he got without exertion. The taluk authorities exercised no control over such a state of affairs. He complained that there were too many stamp-vendors in Vaikam, while there was none at Arukutti where there were courts and other public offices. To avoid the inconvenience to the people, the Member proposed that a paid stamp-vendor on Rs. 25 with a security of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,500 might be appointed in all the taluk offices. A small allowance to a clerk in some of the offices outside headquarters, with a proportionate security, would meet the requirements of those places. Additional clerks as suggested above might be appointed in places where there were District Courts, but an allowance to a clerk would satisfy the requirements of a Munsiff's Court. That arrangement would ensure the steady supply of stamps. It would further considerably reduce the cost of Government. The headclerks of Sub-Registry Offices and provertikars, who were *ex-officio* stamp-vendors, caused considerable inconvenience to those who did not purchase stamp paper from them. He therefore suggested that such responsible subordinates, as headclerks, should not be made *ex-officio* vendors.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

154. Needs of the Todupuzha taluk.

Mr. Chacko Thomman (Member, Todupuzha taluk) said that the inroads of wild beasts were not rare in the Todupuzha taluk as there were large areas of reserves in close proximity to it. He therefore prayed that permission might be granted to the people of the taluk to use fire-arms without a license and for this purpose the whole taluk should be exempted from the operation of the Arms Regulation.

The Member then said that certain lands were classed as porambokes at the time of survey and the persons in actual possession had no knowledge of it. As the result of recent poramboke enquiries, portions of those areas which were not needed for public purposes were ordered to be registered in the names of private persons. While the adjoining tharisu lands were registered on payment of a tharavila of Rs. 3 per acre and an assessment calculated on the 8th tharam, the poramboke areas were registered at a tharavila ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 and an assessment at the 1st or 2nd tharam. That was a great hardship to the poor ryots. He therefore requested that the tharavila and assessment on poramboke lands should not be fixed at higher rates than those fixed for the adjoining tharisu lands.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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